

The Richmond ReView

Vol. 4 No. 5

FREE

February 1992



Cabinet King Strikes Again

page 8

Crashing the boards



Washington Eagle Marlon Short crashes the offensive boards for a rebound in a recent victory over rival John O'Connell High School. The story of the Eagle's season is on page 11.

Photo: Alister Hesser

Mini-mall planned for Sears site on Geary

by Paul Kozakiewicz

The vacant Sears store at Geary Boulevard and Masonic Avenue is to be reborn as a mini-mall, complete with three anchor tenants and specialty shops.

Toys R Us, the country's largest toy retailer, and the Office Club have announced they will join Mervyn's at the 240,000-square-foot site, which is slated to open in October.

Rod Chisessi, associate developer with Alexander Haagen and Associates, owners of the property since purchasing it from Sears in 1986, said the retailers were "among the finest in the country."

The three large retailers will occupy about 80 percent of the building, and six smaller "specialty" stores fill out the balance, according to Chisessi.

He said he could not yet identify the specialty shops that have gotten on board at the site because some negotiations were in progress and the information was still privileged.

The opening of the new mini-mall is expected to generate 300 or more jobs in the City, with approximately 120 to 150 working at the Mervyn's alone.

When Sears closed, about 235 jobs were lost.

Before opening in the fall, the vacant Sears site will undergo a \$6 million renovation.

Remodeling has already begun on the 40-year-old building, which covers about 20 percent of the six-acre Masonic Avenue site. There are also 800 parking spaces on four levels.

When the building opened in 1951, Mayor Elmer Robinson was

present to electronically open all nine entrances with a single gold key.

The \$4 million store was a marvel of its day, with a traffic-control tower, windowless design and modern fluorescent lights, murals of San Francisco history and one of the most powerful air conditioning systems of its day.

Sears moved out of the building Sept. 15, 1990, claiming it was losing too much money even though it had tried numerous marketing strategies.

The trend of buyers shopping at multiple store malls in the 1980s is, in part, credited with the retail giant's failure at the site.

Ironically, it was the growth of single market retailers, like the Toys R Us and Office Club, which is also credited with cutting heavily into Sears' profits in the past decade.

'Friends' offers free trees to District

Friends of the Urban Forest, working in cooperation with participating neighbors in the Richmond District, will be organizing tree plantings in the neighborhood free to residents.

Friends is one of the nation's most active citizen tree-planting groups. It is dedicated to engaging San Francisco neighbors in planting and caring for City trees.

Now in its twelfth year, the group has planted more than 11,000 trees throughout the City, with a 92 percent survival rate.

Plantings are initiated by neighbors, but Friends provides technical and organizational resources. Residents, however, are expected to participate actively in training sessions as well as the planting itself.

Normally there is a charge of \$145 per tree, but because of a special grant from the California State Resources Agency, money is now available for the planting of 780 trees in San Francisco neighborhoods affected by new transportation

Continued on page 4

Don't 'monkey' with tradition on Chinese New Year

by Barbara Austen

February may seem early for spring cleaning, but not when you're getting ready for Chinese New Year, which begins Feb. 5 and ends Feb. 15, and ushers in the Year of the Monkey.

Families begin the New Year by cleaning house, getting rid of the old to make room for the new. They prepare for visits from family and friends by decorating with cherry blossoms.

As the families gather to welcome 4690, they give each other oranges and tangerines (whose names sound similar to the Chinese word for gold) to wish each other prosperity.

Young, unmarried family members are enriched by more than symbolism, however, as older

relatives give them red envelopes filled with "good luck" money. The number eight, whose Chinese name sounds similar to the Chinese word for luck, also plays an important role during the New Year celebration along with the color red for luck.

Chinese neighborhoods will echo with the sound of firecrackers to ward off evil spirits, while lion dancers accompanied by drums, gongs, firecrackers, and cymbals dance from business to business to bring good luck, good fortune and long life.

The monkey, considered friendly, energetic and mischievous, will rule the coming year. According to the Chinese, the monkey can be a show-off, but he is a good provider, a charming companion and gives his friends

long and happy lives. This year promises to be filled with momentous events and opportunities.

People born in the year of the monkey are considered to be skilled, talented, and flexible making them good decision makers that exercise common sense. Monkey people can be passionate and strong natured and may even become famous if they pursue their own course.

On the negative side, monkey people can become distracted and confused, and are prone to abandon a project at the first sign of adversity. A monkey person can also talk too much and drive people away, as well as looking down upon others.

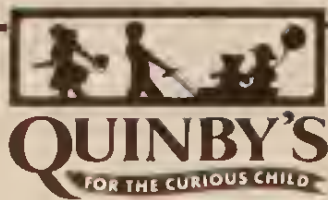
Monkey people make the best marriages with people born in the Dragon or Rat year. They can also

do well with spouses born in the years of the Rabbit, the Sheep or the Dog. Monkey mates should avoid Snake, Boar and, most of all, Tiger people.

Early Chinese astronomers studied the cycles of the skies and based their calendar on the lunar year long before the Greeks invented the solar calendar beginning with Jan 1. Chinese soothsayers studied the behavior of the animals such as the ox, the snake, the ram, the rooster, and the pig and others in relation to people born in certain years. Upon these studies, the Chinese horoscope emerged.

As in past years, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce sponsors the Chinese New Year Festival, beginning with the opening cere-

Continued on back page



Special Events

Feb. 8- Come Make Valentines 1 - 2 p.m.

Feb. 22 - A Celebration of Black History and Literature, Noon- 5 p.m.

Come hear these notable San Franciscans read selections from Black history and literature.

Pam Moore - Channel 4 (noon)

Supervisor Doris Ward (12:30 p.m.)

Valerie Coleman - KCBS (1 p.m.)

Carolyn Tyler - Channel 7 (1:30 p.m.)

Carolyn Duke Alexander - Storyteller (2 p.m.)

Supervisor Willie Kennedy (3:30 p.m.)

Willie Monroe - Channel 7

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Community Police Forum

Parking disputes up, burglaries down

by Laura Jacoby/Chatham

Despite uncertainty regarding exactly what the evening's program would be, the Richmond District Community/Police Forum audience filled the community room at the Sixth Avenue police station for the January meeting.

Speaker Chuck Regal of the Community Boards of San Francisco dispute resolution service surprised few people with his observation that parking disputes have risen dramatically. When he joined the board a few years ago, there were perhaps three cases yearly; he estimates that last year there were 60 to 65.

Community Boards, begun in the 1970s, now has about 300 volunteers working around the City to help people resolve conflicts "free, fast and effectively without involving the police, lawyers and the courts." The board does not act as an arbitration panel deciding who is right or wrong, but helps combatants resolve their disputes, using a four-member panel to mediate discussion.

Usually the board can arrange a mediation within two weeks of

being called upon. They first contact the other party in the dispute to arrange a meeting time. A panel is selected from volunteers who have received 24 hours of training. The board prefers not to have lawyers, psychologists or social workers on the panel for fear they might intimidate the feuding parties.

Barking dog and noise disputes are usually the easiest to handle, said Regal, adding that physical assault is becoming more common in disputes.

The service is available to any disagreeing parties, whether they are neighbors, landlords and tenants or family members. Call 239-6100 or 863-6100 for more information.

In other news, police Captain Greg Winters reported that, since he first took command one year ago, commercial burglaries in the District are down, except for those which still plague Clement Street.

He also introduced one of the two new bike officers, Janet Scarborough, who, with Eric Neff, will be patrolling the Richmond on refurbished 21-speed bicycles donated to the Community Patrol

Officer Program (CPOP) by the Yakota Company.

Scarborough spoke briefly about her experiences as a CPOP bike officer, telling the audience that she sometimes pedals 25 miles during her 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. stint. On occasion she has covered calls ranging from 26th Avenue to the beach and from 43rd Avenue and Cabrillo Street to Park Presidio Boulevard and Lake Street.

Another newcomer introduced to the Forum was S.F. Fire Department Battalion Chief Greg Abel, who has just transferred to the 12th Avenue and Geary Boulevard fire station. He discussed the 1987 Proposition A emergency water supply bond for \$47 million, which is now being implemented and will provide water in case of major disasters, such as fire or earthquake.

Abel also described the Neighborhood Earthquake Response Team program, which offers residents 20 hours of training in responding more effectively during earthquake emergencies. He urged people to call 861-8000, ext. 281, for more information.

Missing Arboretum swans a mystery

by Ryder Miller

A year ago, one could sit at the pond in the Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park, and watch four big white geese walk around on the grass while a pair of rare black Australian swans swam in the water.

"People use to come from the East Bay to feed the wild fowl. Now there's nothing here," says Michael Lewis, a gardener at the Arboretum who was responsible for the pond area and the birds. When Lewis arrived for work at 7 a.m., March 22 last year, the birds were gone. Where they are now is still a mystery.

The 25-pound swans, valued at more than \$500 each, and the 12- to 15-pound geese, were known to be very strong and good biters.

"They were not petting animals in any sense," says Jolie Velazquez, office manager for the Strybing Arboretum Society. "One was downright ornery."

Lewis theorizes that it would take more than three people with nets and a truck to steal the birds from the Arboretum. Their wings were clipped so they could not fly away.

The theft followed budget cuts for the park patrol, which is still underfunded, and depends heavily on the San Francisco police force to patrol the park.

After the disappearance of the birds, there were a few false leads. Black swans were seen on an estate in Sonoma County, but the owner had bought them. At a lagoon in Foster City, large black birds were spotted, but they turned out to be geese.

"The case is not being actively investigated at this point," said Sergeant Marty Walsh, who investigated the crime.

"But it could be reopened up if there were new leads."

Since the theft, the locks have been changed at the Arboretum from generic Recreation and Park Department locks to ones that only Arboretum staff have keys for.

No organization or individual has come forward to donate funds for new waterfowl. According to a park spokesperson, the park is "fighting to have enough funds to keep the gardeners employed," and has "no new plans to get any new ornamental birds."

Other birds, including pigeons, seagulls, brewer blackbirds and migratory birds, can still be seen at the pond at the Strybing Arboretum.

Volunteers sought to fight aliens

San Francisco's parks and open spaces have been invaded by exotics! Volunteers are needed to help remove alien vegetation so that nature can restore the native plants and wildlife that has traditionally made San Francisco parks so enjoyable.

Volunteer crews are needed to work with the staff of the Recreation and Park Department in many of the City's parks con-

trolling these "weed" populations. The park department will supply the tools and expertise; volunteers need bring only energy and a willingness to work. Volunteers can work on weekends or weekdays.

For information and to apply, call Elaine Molinari, 666-7090. A few hours each month from volunteers will go a long way to keeping San Francisco parks beautiful.

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Palace of the Legion of Honor to close for remodeling, seismic upgrade

by Zaza Urbanek

The California Palace of the Legion of Honor is closing to the public on March 31, for two years, while seismic strengthening and expansion improvements take place.

The total cost of the extensive renovation will be \$25 million. More than half of the cost will be used for expanding the Richmond District site, while \$11 million is needed for making it earthquake safe.

The new design will add six new galleries and expand many of the existing ones, as well as creating a storage vault for valuable art objects beneath the new galleries.

While the Palace is closed, legion members will conduct business at the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park and several other locations.

Rather than put all of the museum's art works in storage, the museum has planned six exhibitions specifically organized for other California museums and for international tours until it reopens in 1994.

The Napa Valley Opera House, presently being remodeled into a multi-faceted cultural center with museum-quality exhibition space, will house part of the Palace's exhibits, including the famous Rodin sculpture *The Thinker*.

While closed, the Palace will be expanded from 75,000 to 115,000 square feet.

The San Francisco firm of Barnes and Cavagnera has been hired to do the construction.

The Palace, built in 1924, was designed by City architect George



Photo: Philip Liorio/Gang

The Palace of the Legion of Honor closes for remodeling in March.

Applegarth. The design is inspired by the Hotel de Salm in Paris.

The 68-year-old museum was

given to San Francisco as a gift from the late Alma de Bretteville Spreckels.

Free Healthy Heart Fair to battle #1 killer of Americans

National Heart Month will be celebrated with a free Healthy Heart Fair.

The festivities include body-fat testing, blood pressure screening, relaxing massages, healthy heart nutrition information and samples. Interactive displays and information on diabetes, weight loss, stress control and smoking cessation will also be offered.

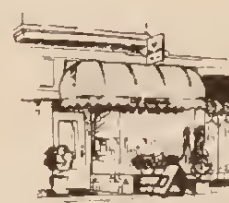
Heart disease is the number one leading cause of death in the United States, killing 500,000 a year. In San Francisco, cardiovascular diseases are responsible for

approximately 40 percent of all deaths.

Sixty-one percent of San Franciscans report having changed at least one life-style habit in order to reduce the risk of heart attack. Come to the Healthy Heart Fair to learn about all the risk factors and how to reduce them.

The fair is at the California Pacific Medical Center, Conference Center, 2333 Buchanan St., first floor, on Wednesday, February 12 from noon to 4 p.m.

For more information call (415) 923-3440.



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Urban trees

Continued from page 1

tion projects. About 220 of the trees will be planted in the District.

The Richmond District plantings will be free to neighbors located near the 31 Balboa bus line, which has been undergoing

conversion to an electric line.

The trees are specifically chosen for the sandy soil and strong, salt winds found in the "fog belt."

To join the planting project, neighbors in the outer Richmond should call coordinator Maria Hon at 751-1920. For information on organizing a planting in your neighborhood, call the Friends at 543-5000

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Merchants hear from supe, captain & PG&E

by Paul Kozakiewicz

Geary merchants had a full plate on their tray in January when they got together to hear four featured speakers.

The two-hour meeting featured

City Supervisor Angela Alioto, who urged members of the business community to get more involved with issues that potentially affect them, such as the strict anti-smoking ordinance "that is happening down the road."

She said the board passes 30 to 50 laws a week and that the most active participants in the debate often get the best results.

"We don't hear a lot about small businesses," the supervisor said, addressing the group of about 30 merchants at the Bank of America Branch on Geary Boulevard near Masonic Avenue.

Alioto also told the merchants she would like to see an overhaul of the planning department, which she said had an "almost unconstitutional" permit process, which sometimes results in two-year waits for a permit to build a bathroom.

"It's outrageous what goes on in the planning department," the recent mayoral candidate told the sympathetic merchants, many of whom shared their own difficulties in trying to get approval for various projects.

Low on cash? - barter your wares

by Pete Jacobs

Art Bonner, a Richmond District upholsterer and interior decorator, recently received eye care, glasses, and gift baskets, but he spent no cash. Instead, he turned to bartering, a method of doing business that may be overlooked by many businesses seeking an edge in today's competitive marketplace.

"Trade has done a lot for me," said Bonner, who used the trade credits he deposited into his barter account with BX International Inc., which acts as a combination bank and matchmaker for 10,000 trade members nationwide. Members barter for each others goods and services using their own currency, trade dollars.

BX International is one of several barter services in the Bay Area. It is the nation's oldest trade organization, providing an alternative for businesses that want to conserve

cash, especially during the recession.

"We've seen about a 50 percent increase in business," said Bob Dorenstreich, BX International's San Francisco director.

Bonner said he "recently got a contract for upholstery services with several Sberaton and Holiday Inn hotels through the trade system. In fact, I even paid for my daughter's sweet sixteen birthday cruise on San Francisco Bay with trade!"

Members, including doctors, lawyers, other professionals, and every sort of business, swap for goods and services by writing BX International checks on their trade dollar accounts as they would write a check for U.S. currency for a like value of goods and services.

John Sellai, of Pinelli's Flowerland on Clement Street, trades his flower shop services for barter dollars. "During tough times, having the extra cus-

tomers is a blessing, and being able to buy without cash even more of one," Sellai said.

Dorenstreich, a trader par excellence, is constantly busy helping new members and providing trading tips. His 9 to 9 office hours and his seven day weeks are flush with business and ringing with conference calls.

"We think of ourselves as like the Coast Guard, here to save ships in an economically stormy sea," says Dorenstreich, who strikes those who know him as endlessly patient and helpful, with a well of boundless energy and resourcefulness.

"One of the nice things about a trade organization is that it takes the mystery and complexity out of bartering," says Dorenstreich. "Members don't trade directly with each other."

Walter Lee of WL Enterprises on 33rd Avenue

Continued on page 16

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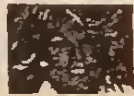
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As chairwoman of the City Services Committee, Alioto successfully battled for funds to help keep the Mt. Zion crisis clinic open when Mayor Art Agnos proposed closing the facility as a deficit reducing measure.

Also present at the meeting was Richmond District Police Captain Greg Winters, who warned the merchants that there has been a "rash of nighttime commercial break-ins" in the District lately.

He said there are now additional police officers walking the District's main streets, including Geary Boulevard, Clement, Balboa and California streets.

The officers, who are participating in the City's Community

Patrol Officer Program, are also on duty seven days a week in an effort to curb crime in the neighborhood.

Nancy Monroe was third to address members of the Greater Geary Boulevard Merchants and Property Owners Association. Monroe is the director of the Richmond Hills Family Center, which opened last year to help homeless families, on Geary Boulevard near 27th Avenue.

She said the center has served 52 families to date, with 31 finding permanent or transitional housing. The average stay at the site is three months.

A somewhat controversial part of the center's program, where homeless people were to be bused in for a daytime program administered by Catholic Charities, has been temporarily discontinued.

The center is currently serving its maximum capacity of 40 people — 25 adults and 15 children.

"The community outpouring of support has been wonderful," Monroe said.

Fourth on the agenda was Timothy Leong and Victor Roberts from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, who told of a

new program devised by the utility to reward customers that use less energy.

Because the energy demands in California will soon exceed supply, the utility can pay to reward electricity misers, for example, or it can pay to build new sources of electricity, which are much more costly.

According to Roberts, approximately 15 to 30 percent of energy used by business is wasted.

The utility is offering numerous cash rebates, up to \$100,000, as incentives to conserve. They include money for conversion to energy efficient lighting, refrigeration and air conditioning, motors and cooking equipment.

Merchants were urged to call Leong at 695-3608 for more information about the program, which is scheduled to end Oct. 31.

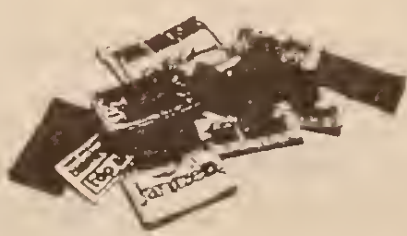
Last, but not least, on the program was Arden Smith, who briefed the merchants about various employee insurance programs.

He said he has found a reasonably priced policy package for small business owners and said merchants could get more information by calling him at 641-9458.

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Kings and queens of the blues coming to play at the Palace in March

by Chris Rivers

A searing and comprehensive blues line-up planned for the California Palace of the Legion of Honor might well justify a trip across Golden Gate Park during the months of February and March.

At the Gould Theater, part of the classic artistic and cultural palace at 34th Avenue and Clement Street, blues greats including Joe Louis Walker, John Hammond, Katie Webster, Mike Henderson and Mike Seeger will perform.

The series is notable because the variety and scope of music presented spans decades of America musical history and because this will be the last such concert series before the museum shuts its doors for two years for remodeling and seismic upgrade.

"We anticipate it will be an amazing series of performances," said event promoter Cathryn Hrudicka. "There are big names and great artists."

The series, which begins with Joe Louis Walker Feb. 2 and ends with Cephas and Wiggins March 22, blends American blues music styles including country blues, delta blues, Piedmont blues, folk, urban and boogie, all presented in solo performances.

Among the artists scheduled to perform in the concert series are:

Joe Louis Walker

An inventive, technically gifted blues guitar craftsman. He's also a passionate soul singer who enriches his blues and rhythm and blues workouts with a gospel-based vocal conviction that sets the Oakland musician apart from a

growing array of talented modern bluesmen.

Walker began honing his boundary-crossing blues style as a teenager growing up in the old Fillmore neighborhood. Raised on a steady diet of B.B. King, Amos Milburn, James Brown and Bobby Blue Bland, Walker naturally incorporated bits of the blues, soul and R&B into his music.

Katie Webster

With albums like "Swamp Boogie Queen," she has been described by Rolling Stone Magazine as "pure sonic dynamite. Her barrelhouse piano and deep, lived-in voice are even tastier than the blue-plate special at K-Paul's Cajun Kitchen."

Her newest recording, on Alligator Records, features the sassy and sensuous blend of New Orleans rhythm and blues with a bayou and gospel sound that makes for newfound interest and critical acclaim.

John Hammond

Regarded as one of the most outstanding solo blues artists on the scene today, Hammond has been on the road for over 25 years. Playing nightclubs, universities, festivals and concert halls worldwide, the white student of deep southern blues (among other forms) is known for his intense vocals and guitar work.

Mike Seeger

With astonishing technique, Seeger's pace on banjo, fiddle, guitar, harmonica and dulcimer never flags.

Cephas and Wiggins

"Ambassadors for the Blues,"



Blues great Joe Louis Walker

vocals, guitar and harmonica, leading exponents of the "Piedmont blues tradition," the award-winning John Cephas and Phil Wiggins are full of the energy of an approaching storm.

The series, which runs Sundays at 2 p.m., is expected to interest fans throughout the Bay Area. Tickets are available by calling 750-7667 during weekday hours or for a brochure with the exact dates for scheduled performers, call 750-3614.

'Masters' plan shakes up Richmond leaders

With final approval of the state's political remapping plan last month by the California Supreme Court, big changes could be in the wind for the Richmond District.

The court okayed a plan devised by special "masters" appointed by the court to draw new political boundaries based on the recently completed census.

With the new boundaries the Richmond District will no longer be represented in Congress by Barbara Boxer, whose political territory is now confined to the counties north of San Francisco. The District is now part of Congressional District Eight, containing the Richmond and the eastern half of San Francisco, and represented by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.

In the state senatorial districts, Senator Milton Marks, who has served the people of the Richmond in Sacramento for many years, now has his political turf on the eastern half of the City.

Currently representing the District is Senator Quentin Kopp, an independent senator whose Eighth Senatorial District has been extended northward.

Meanwhile, State Assembly District 12 now includes all of western San Francisco, including the Richmond.

Assemblyman John Burton may run for election in the District because he now lives in District 13, where Assemblyman Willie Brown lives. Representatives must live in the district they represent; the Burtons have lived many years in the West of Twin Peaks areas, making the territory well known to Burton.

With the creation of new political boundaries, it is possible that the Richmond District will be represented by incumbents Congresswoman Pelosi, state Senator Kopp and Assemblyman Burton — replacing the current trio of Congresswoman Boxer, state Senator Marks and Assemblyman Brown.



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YMCA kicks off '92 fund-raising drive

The Richmond District YMCA is celebrating the 70th year of operations in the neighborhood by kicking off its annual fundraising drive.

The goal is to raise \$50,000, several thousand more than was raised last year, to help finance the Y's various community services.

The effort is especially important this year, according to director Beth Salazar, because funds usually received from the United Way can not be used for the Y's seniors programs.

In a shift of policy, the United

Way is now focusing its funding efforts on youth and fitness programs.

As well, the City cut \$16,000 from the Y's senior programs last year, Salazar said.

The Richmond YMCA serves more than 2,000 local children and adults. The organization sponsors childcare, youth and family camping, and employment training programs as well as a senior community and health and fitness center.

During February, many of the District's local volunteers and

business leaders will be stumping for the cause.

All contributions to the non-profit group are tax-deductible and arrangements can be made to pay the donation in monthly or quarterly chunks. Additionally, \$100 donors will be listed in the YMCA's citywide newsletter.

For Richmond residents wishing to contribute, mail donations to the YMCA, 360 18th Ave., S.F., CA 94121. For more information about all the YMCA's activities, residents can call 668-2060.

UCSF studies Asian smoking patterns

University of California San Francisco researchers are now surveying Chinese adults in the Bay Area to learn about their smoking and health habits.

Researchers who are fluent in English and Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin) will be telephoning randomly selected Chinese households and interviewing smokers and non-smokers. The study will examine patterns of both smoking and passive smoking (exposure to second-hand smoke). Information from the study will help experts plan health promotion programs aimed at Chinese Americans, a group with high rates of lung cancer, but whose smoking habits are not well-documented.

The UCSF survey is the first study of Chinese smoking practices in the United States.

California has the largest concentration of Chinese in the United States, and about half or 315,000 Chinese Americans, live in the Bay Area.

Among Asian American males, Chinese have the highest rate of lung cancer. The lung cancer rates for Chinese women exceed all ethnic groups, including whites, African-Americans and Hispanics.

"Despite these morbidity data, very little is known about smoking rates among Chinese residents of the U.S.," says Marion Lee, PhD, a university professor.

Studies from mainland China and Taiwan suggest that smoking is highly prevalent in men but not in women. In one study in mainland China, the smoking rate for men between 45 and 49 years was 70 percent, compared to 7 percent

among women. In Taiwan, smoking rates of 48 percent for men and 5 percent for women have been reported.

In mainland China, a study of more than 340,000 non-smokers found that 48 percent were exposed to second-hand smoke. The concern, says Lee, is that these habits and rates are probably similar among Chinese who have recently immigrated to the United States.

The UCSF study is funded by Proposition 99, the Tobacco Tax Initiative, and it is conducted with the Bay Area Cancer Coalition.

A second phase later will include surveys of smoking and health habits of Chinese school children.

For more information about the study, call 476-0744.

Quitline for smokers wishing to stop

Effective immediately, a free 24-hour phone helpline is available to assist smokers who want to stop their habit.

Quitting smoking, while widely considered the single most important factor in promoting good health and longevity, proves extremely difficult for many smokers and can be expensive as well. With the introduction of the San Francisco Smokers' Quitline, help is now available, free of charge, to all those wishing to quit.

The Quitline guarantees all callers a personal consultation within one working day. The Quitline is headed by Martin

Zapata, MSW, of the Department of Public Health's Tobacco Free Project. Zapata is a smoking cessation specialist who has developed much of the telephone counseling materials used for the Quitline.

The Tobacco Free Project staff is equipped with the latest and most effective cessation methods. A free workbook containing many of these techniques is also available.

The Quitline offers additional services to educators, health care professionals or people concerned about the dangers of second-hand smoke, recently determined to be the number three cause of pre-

ventable death nationally. Suggestions for ways to create a smoke-free environment are offered.

The Quitline offers services in English and Spanish only.

For further information, call Martin Zapata of the Tobacco Free Project at 554-9153.

The Quitline number is 554-9999.

For Asian speaking residents wishing to quit smoking the Tobacco Cessation Project at the Chinatown youth center offers services in Mandarin, Cantonese and Vietnamese.

Call Jane Tran at 775-2636 for more information.

Boys and girls sought for baseball teams

Individual players ages six to 14 years may sign up to join a Youth Baseball League team by bringing proof of age and identification to the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's Athletic Office.

Applications will be accepted Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or Saturday, 10 a.m. to

noon, prior to the deadline of Feb. 14.

League play will begin the week of April 4 for the following age group teams: Tee-ball, ages six, seven and eight; Pinto, ages seven and eight; Mustang, ages nine and 10; Bronco, ages 11 and 12; and Pony, ages 13 and 14.

Ages nine to 14 must have

proof of age, a birth or baptismal certificate, or green card. Ages 11 to 14 must bring a small photograph (1/2 wallet size) to register for the league.

For more information, call the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's Athletic Office at 753-7029.

Richmond District Crime Statistics

Crime Description	August	September	October	November	December	January as Jan. 29	6 Month Totals
Homicide	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Rape	3	1	3	3	3	0	13
Robbery	25	42	19	37	25	26	174
Assault	47	77	32	58	45	46	305
Burglary	73	70	33	56	60	52	344
Theft (grand or petty)	136	207	125	222	193	129	1,012
Auto (break-ins or strippings)	134	104	70	164	133	112	717
Other	360	388	307	446	406	318	2,225
Totals	778	890	589	987	865	683	4,792

The most recent statistics are incomplete and will increase as crimes are logged in the computer.

Gung Hay Fat Valentine's Day! And happy Susan B. Anthony's birthday to you, during this busy Black History month. Y'know, I think a blending pot concept of American life has real possibilities. This month you can celebrate almost anything, unless you're still down with the flu, of which there are three kinds going around now — the vaccine only covered two, so don't get smug — estimates are that 90 percent of us will be on the sick list before this winter is over.

Speaking of Susan B.'s birthday, Muriel Knapp is inviting you to a reception that day, Saturday, Feb. 15, benefitting the campaign to find space for the Women's Heritage Museum. Despite being operated as a "museum-without-walls" based in a garage in Palo Alto, the women's heritage project has produced a traveling exhibit about California Woman Suffrage and sponsored slide shows, as well as producing a series of television interviews. Now, however, the museum is looking for more funding and a public location in San Francisco — somewhere in the Richmond would be nice.

The new member reception/benefit will be at the Cartoon Art Museum, currently featuring an exhibit called Historical Perspective on Women Cartoonists, at 665 Third St. San Francisco underground cartoonist Trina Robbins, who has authored *Women and the Comics* and *A Century of Women Cartoonists*, will be the honored guest at the benefit. The reception is from 6 to 8 p.m.; admission is \$10 to members and free to new

members. Call 752-9548 for more information.

Quinby's (for the curious child), 3411 California St., has a remarkable line-up of speakers celebrating black history month. On Feb. 22, you will be able to hear selections from black history and literature read by storyteller Carolyn Duke Alexander, Valerie Coleman of KCBS, Supervisor Willie Kennedy, Willie Monroe of Channel 7, Pam Moore of Channel 4, Carolyn Tyler of



Photo: Rudi Franke

Cartoonist Trina Robbins

Channel 7, Supervisor Doris Ward and Martin Wyatt of Channel 7. This very special event begins at noon — for a detailed schedule, see the Quinby's advert on page 2 of this ReView

While we're talking about the ReView, it could be just coincidence, but after we ran a pair of



stories about the Columbarium, manager Joe Biemacki was contacted by Associated Press, CNN, USA Today and Focus magazine, to name just a few who wanted interviews. That's your ReView — tomorrow's trendy stories reported in the Richmond District today.

One sad local trend, that of long-time Richmond District businesses being driven out by outrageous rent increases, has claimed another victim. The Graphic Arts Workshop, which has been at 25th Avenue and California Street since 1960, is on its way out. The workshop houses a printmakers' cooperative studio and gallery space for its artists, as well as offering classes in printmaking techniques. The Richmond 5 Studio, featured in the recent SF Open Studios tour, is based in the workshop.

The founders of the arts workshop were students from the California Labor School, which was founded by local trade unions as a lifelong learning center, and was subsequently done in by the forces of McCarthyism. The equipment from the defunct Labor School went to start the Graphic Arts Workshop, which has always been active in supporting anti-war and civil rights organizations with posters and leaflets. In the past

few years, the workshop has sponsored exhibits for the nuclear freeze movement and exchanged exhibits with art groups in Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Now, after 32 years, the workshop is forced to leave the Richmond for the American Industrial Center at 2345 Third St. President Candice Jacobus invites you to call 681-8693 if you're interested in joining the cooperative, finding out more about the Graphic Arts Workshop or getting on the mailing list to be notified of future events.

Meanwhile, the newly formed Richmond District CPOP bicycle patrol was decimated when one bike of the two-bike team was stolen from Officer Eric Neff's District apartment. Ironically, the Yakota Company had donated only white bikes to the program because the color wasn't popular with bike riders — but I guess nobody told the burglar that.

Local historian and lecturer Gray Brechin will describe the evolution of the Bay Area house in his talk "Gimme Shelter," at Fort Mason Center, Bldg. C at 6:30 p.m. He'll be focusing on the way technology affected the 19th century home and the lives of individuals. Gray, who's working on a book about San Francisco's environmental impact on the Bay, is an informative, funny speaker.

Henry Ossawa Tanner is renowned as the foremost African American painter from the turn of

this century, and in honor of his 90-picture exhibit at the deYoung, the museum is extending their hours on Wednesdays through the month of February and treating everybody to free admission between 5 and 8:45 p.m. In addition, the deYoung is featuring a series of Wednesday evening film and music programs. Call 863-3330 for more information.

Has anyone else been inundated by the prayer cards that the Voice of Pentecost church in Ingleside has been hanging on everyone's front door? The card says that "your home was prayed for" because the "Lord spoke to our pastor and said we should pray a blessing on every single home in the city of San Francisco."

Since most of the door cards seem to be winding up on the sidewalk and it's those of us without homes who really need blessings — as well as more substantial aid — I'd like to nominate the Voice for an "Unclear on the Concept" award.

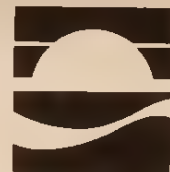
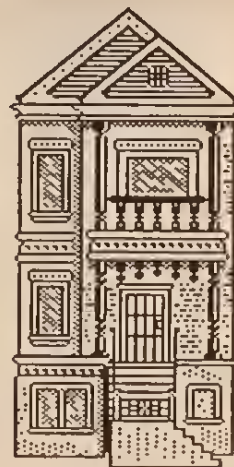
At the least, they could print their message on recycled paper and then send out clean-up crews the following day. And, while I'm thinking about it, they could list useful hotline numbers instead of having that full-color photo of Pastor Gazowsky's family.

Whoops, I meant to be more of a sweetheart this month — I'll try harder in March. Meanwhile, roses are red and violets are blue, my best valentine wishes go to ... they know who.

Send items for the column c/o The Richmond ReView, P.O. Box 590596, SF 94159 or phone 387-2843. Be sure to leave a return-call phone number.

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Hard work pays off for Richmond District entrepreneur

by Caroline Chung

The Richmond District's kitchen and bathroom king has outdone himself.

Gerhard Degemann, proprietor of International Kitchens on Clement Street, has usurped himself by building the largest kitchen and bath showroom in Northern California.

The new 6,000-square-foot store, which is bigger than the large Richmond District site, recently opened in Alameda.

Degemann, an immigrant from Germany, attributes the success of his store to hard work and "long, long hours." To work 13 to 16 hours a day for seven days a week is not unusual for the seasoned entrepreneur.

"I work during the day in one store, and the evening in the other one, seven days a week," admits Degemann. "You gotta love it!"

Much of the business was learned from his father and grandfather. Degemann fondly recalls taking daily trips, from age five, to his grandfather's furniture store.

When the going gets rough Degemann can count on his

family to help. Degemann's wife, Jean, a teacher, decorated the new showroom in Alameda and his three grown children (RoseMarie, Andrew, and Susan) occasionally lend a hand around the shop.

Degemann, and his brother Wolfgang, introduced European-style cabinets to the United States in the early 1970s.

After a long stint in the construction and remodeling business, Degemann moved to the retail side of business and opened International Kitchens in the District.

The two International Kitchen showrooms feature European-style cabinets and both are authorized Kohler and Corian dealers.

Degemann not only sports the largest kitchen and bath showroom in northern California, but he also manages a growing export business.

With the added buying power of two stores and exports, the savvy businessman says he can beat the prices of most of the competition.

Degemann said about 65 percent of his customers in San Francisco are Asian, and when he

started doing kitchen remodeling for Japanese residents in the Bay Area, word quickly spread to Japan.

Degemann now exports to Asia as well as to other countries, including Canada.

What prompted Degemann to open a store in Alameda? The inspiration first came when sales in the City fell after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake because "customers were afraid to cross the bridge," from the East Bay. Degemann didn't want to lose his East Bay customers, so he began planning the opening of a new store.

The location of the new International Kitchens also has sentimental meaning to Degemann.

He discovered Alameda by accident while on his honeymoon in 1958. Traveling through the Bay Area, he got lost, found himself in Alameda and liked it so much, he moved there in 1963.

The grand opening of the store was attended by several prominent political figures, including Alameda Mayor Bill Withrow. The size of the crowd was testimony to Degemann's standing in local community.

He has been very active in the local arena and has been involved in many aspects of government including voluntary positions.

Degemann was Chairman of the Design and Review Board of Alameda, the Commissioner of the Historical Advisory Committee and the President of the Historical High School Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization geared towards preserving historical artifacts.

Degemann's past experience in the building and remodeling business is also extensive. He was



Photo: Philip Liborio Gangi

Gerhard Degemann, who has opened another store in Alameda, smiles in front of his store at Clement Street and 26th Avenue.

president of the Home Builders Association and was the prime contractor for the Claremont Hotel Restoration in the early 1970s.

International Kitchens and Bath Cabinets of San Francisco is located on the corner of Clement Street and 26th Avenue. For more

information, call 387-1001.

International Kitchens of Alameda is located at 2319 Lincoln Ave. in Alameda and has free parking. For more information, call (510) 522-4300.

Both stores are, of course, open seven days a week.

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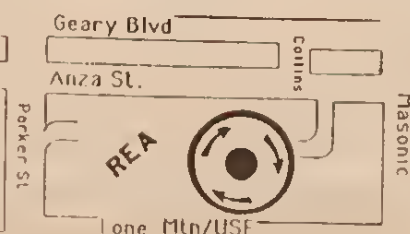


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Where to find us



Literary 'hoax' enlivens Presidio Reading Center history

by Laura Jacoby/Chatham

Although the official opening is not until Feb. 12, neighbors were waiting at the door to welcome librarian Mari DeWitt when she reopened the Presidio Branch Library for business on Jan. 28.

"We love you, Presidio Library," proclaimed a big red construction-paper heart brought by two loyal patrons and taped to the front door with a bunch of balloons.

Because work is still being done on the building, and trucks fill the front lawn at 3150 Sacramento St., DeWitt was worried that patrons might not realize the library was open for business. However, phones rang all day with eager readers asking if the library was really open and what the new schedule would be.

DeWitt had worked late into the previous night unpacking boxes and getting all the books back on the shelves. Although budget cutbacks have necessitated the branch's reassignment as a reading center, she promises that the library has not lost a single book.

"Every book that was here is back on the shelf," she says with pride. "We didn't lose one, not one." DeWitt did, however, take advantage of the closing to redesign the library layout more efficiently, which accounts for the more spacious look.

As a reading center, Presidio will be open only 20 hours a week and will not have the services of a full-time librarian. The building will continue to house the Library for the Blind, which offers walk-in, phone and mail-out services to people who are permanently or temporarily unable to read standard print.

The Presidio library, first opened April 1921 at a cost of \$82,000, was funded by industrialist Andrew Carnegie, who had donated \$375,000 for the construction of branch libraries in San Francisco. The library was designed by G. Albert Lansburgh, who created the Mission and Sunset district branch libraries as well.

The Presidio, like the main library, is in the Italian Renaissance style. Architect George Kelham, who designed the main, described that style as best representing "the scholarly atmosphere which a library should attempt to convey."

However, in the 1970s, the library's scholarly atmosphere was not what made it known throughout America. One patron, a novelist and poet, was alone responsible for the library's unexpected notoriety.

"This is a beautiful library, timed perfectly, lush and American," was the opening sentence of *The Abortion: An Historical Romance* 1966, by Richard Brautigan.

He went on to tell about a librarian who lives — 24 hours a day, seven days a week — in a library where anyone can bring the book they have written to be entered in the "Library Contents Ledger" and then placed on whatever shelf they want.

"It doesn't make any difference where a book is placed because nobody ever checks them out and nobody ever comes here to read them. This is not that kind of library. This is another kind of library," wrote Brautigan.

But in describing his fictional library's appearance, Brautigan drew on his own neighborhood library, from the "asparagus stalk" lamps on the Clay Street side to the



Workers put the finishing touches on the Presidio Branch Reading Center.

sloping lawn covered with daisies and dandelions on the Sacramento Street side and the high arched windows framing tall green trees.

He described it right down to the address, 3150 Sacramento St., which he described right down to the city, state and zip code, 94115. And though he clearly stated, "no books are ever accepted by mail. They must be brought in person," authors-to-be started sending hopeful letters to the address Brautigan had offered.

"Please be a library! Please be a library

and fulfill the faraway fantasies of a college freshman," wrote J.F. Kinkus from Pittsburgh, Pa. on yellow, lined paper. "I would travel 3,000 miles to give you my book."

Letters came from all over the country, from all segments of the population, on every imaginable kind of stationery and scratch paper. The letter writers did not necessarily have a manuscript to offer; often they simply wanted to know if the

Continued on page 11

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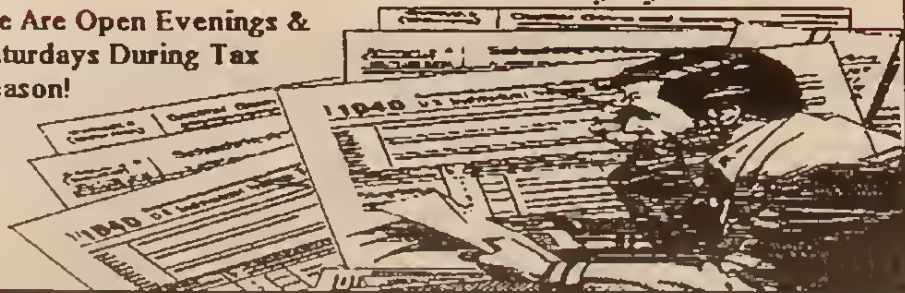
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Watchdog, historian Clary lived to protect G.G. Park

by Karol Dietrich

San Francisco lost a mighty crusader last month. The giant of a man, both figuratively and literally, was the historian par excellence of Golden Gate Park and the San Francisco Midwinter Fair of 1894.

When Raymond Clary died from heart failure Jan. 9 at Mt. Zion Hospital, he had long been established as the premier defender of the natural integrity of the park and the documentation of its history.

Among other things, he was credited with renaming San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, the "wreck and park."

He also worked the near-impossible task of getting park officials to bring the Francis Scott Key monument out of hiding behind the Academy of Sciences and into the sun.

Today visitors to the Golden Gate Park Concourse can see this magnificently restored statue

where Clary insisted it be placed.

And be made sure the work was done for the country's centennial in 1976. This event is documented in Clary's second book with a photo showing a large crowd gathered near the base of the monument. The band of course played Keys' *Star Spangled Banner*.

Local historian Greg Gaar said Clary adhered to the park's master planner William Hammond Hall's design and plan for the park, even if it meant dealing with some of the City's toughest politicians or City bureaucrats.

"He disliked the idea of naming streets in the park for people, and he abhorred the expansion of any buildings in the park," said Gaar.

Clary's wife, Carol, echoed these words.

"He believed the people of the City should be free of urban agonies when they enter the park, and street signs reminding us of slain leaders - John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. did

not belong in Golden Gate Park."

Rather, she added, Raymond wanted the streets named according to Hall's master plan, using flora and fauna nomenclature.

Legend has it that Clary met his wife Carol in the park.

"Not true," she said. "Our first date was in Golden Gate Park. We met at the Presidio Army base and, I believe, the next weekend, we had our first date in the park." She added they spent many hours walking this "sylvan retreat."

"He wasn't afraid of taking on a project that he believed in," said his wife.

Because he wasn't a politician or city official he didn't have to play their games, but he did manage to upset some when he had a goal and they didn't agree, said Mrs. Clary.

When he worked tirelessly to get the deLaveaga Dell restored in the 1960s, there were those at Rec and Park who didn't think it would serve any purpose because the area was so neglected. After many months, work began.

Clary would live to see his efforts go for naught when the dell again fell into disrepair and for many years it was an overgrown site, abandoned by all but the homeless who camped there.

However, AIDS activists united recently to reclaim the area and today the dell is completely restored as an AIDS memorial.

"He often felt his struggle to keep the park a people's park his special calling, and he encouraged any and all to become involved in saving it," said Mrs. Clary, adding that Raymond was delighted to see other people get interested in restoring areas of the park.

Although his considerable historical collection on the park is documented in two books, *The*



G.G. Park champion, Ray Clary.

Making of Golden Gate Park, he died before the third and final volume of the history was finished.

Clary also was one of a few people to have amassed historical artifacts of the 1894 Midwinter Fair in San Francisco.

His home library is filled with artifacts - postcards, medallions, tiny statues, posters, photographs and literature of the Midwinter Fair held in Golden Gate Park.

One local historian said if Clary's Midwinter Fair memorabilia were to sold off piece by piece, it would be almost impossible to put a price on it.

Mrs. Clary volunteered that Raymond had made provisions for his priceless collection.

"He made sure it wasn't going out of the City," she said.

The entire collection will be on exhibit sometime next year after a thorough process of documenting and cataloguing is completed by the eminent librarian, Gladys Hansen.

Hansen is the director of the museum of the City of San Francisco located in the Cannery, and she will complete Clary's in-

progress third book on Golden Gate Park.

Clary maintained other civic interests, but none were as captivating as Golden Gate Park for him. Mrs. Clary remembered that one of his favorite retreats was Strawberry Hill.

"He liked to hike there and gaze out over this special park," she said.

When Clary died, he left a long wish list of things to be done and not to be done to the park, but his daughter Linda Vogel said he also managed to awaken the interests of many who love the park.

Clary often expressed his views - clearly, vehemently and in detail - in the Letters to the Editor section of local newspapers, becoming a favorite of many readers for his emphatic style.

There is one further footnote for Clary's work and efforts to keep the park a "sylvan retreat."

The current park planner, Deborah Lerner, is said to be an advocate of William Hammond Hall's master plan for the park. To that end, she is working to introduce a park bond measure for this coming June or November election.

Clary would be honored if the citizens of San Francisco endorsed a bond measure to maintain this unique park, although, he would laugh to know it took a bond measure to add more gardeners, and crew to keep up the roadways, water mains, irrigation canals, and reforestation.

Whatever the future of the park, historians and park-lovers will miss its greatest champion.

"Those are pretty big shoes to fill," said local historian Gaar. "I don't see anyone stepping in to take his place."

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Washington Eagles rebound to stay alive in playoff spot competition

The Washington Eagles basketball team is making a strong move to the hoop.

After a rough start, the Eagles are starting to play with the best of them, despite a lack of experience and playing time together.

According to Eagle head coach, Tom Swartz, the 20-man Eagle team that started the season had 10 senior players who had never played high school basketball, three juniors and two sophomores.

"The team is still getting more confident and comfortable together," Swartz said.

But the team is jelling as a unit, to use an old sports cliché, and is closing in on the .500 mark for the season.

As of presstime, the Eagles are 4 wins and 5 losses. Four of the teams in their six-team division will qualify for the City's Academic Athletic Association

playoffs.

Swartz says that with a little luck the team could be almost undefeated because someone on the team comes forward to make a big play.

"Every week is somebody new," he said.

The team has won two in a row, including a thrilling overtime victory over the then-division-leading Mission Bears. In the game against the Bears, Washington senior Marlon Short scored 28 points, including a 3-point pressure shot to send the game into the extra period, in a 88-83 win.

While everyone has a share in the team's success, coach Swartz says Short and Tamahl Fleming are some of the best overall players on the team while Raeshon Graham is among the best defenders. As well, he feels Henry Hong and Steve Kilman are



Photo: Philip Liborio Gang

Washington Eagle head coach Tom Swartz plots strategy with members of his basketball squad.

"the glue that keeps the team together."

The team may have to win most of its remaining games,

including rematch battles with rival Lincoln and McAteer high schools, to make the playoffs. But Swartz thinks the rapidly improving team can make it.

"I'm confident we have a good chance to make the playoffs," he said.

— Paul Kozakiewicz

Presidio Reading Center's lively past

Continued from page 11

library really existed.

"Dear Librarian: Are you really in there — inside a library where you stay 24 hours each day?" was the query in a letter dated Dec. 24, 1971 from two inmates of the penitentiary in Walla Walla, Wash.

Kay Roberts, who was the librarian at that time, and Elaine Ratner, a member of the Friends

of the S.F. Public Library, carefully responded to all the letters, gently explaining that, although the library existed and looked much as Brautigan said, it was a branch of the San Francisco Public Library and acquired books in the standard way. Occasionally, their correspondence would take an unexpected turn.

George Myers, Jr. of Camp Hill, Pa. offered a 12-volume history of his life "at home and at

a prep school, including pictures, poetry and essays of humor." Ratner wrote back, explaining that Presidio was a branch of the San Francisco public library and could not accept his work.

A week later, Susan Wolff wrote from Montana, defending Myers' work and urging Ratner to ignore official policy because

Continued on page 12

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At the beginning of the year, I usually get many calls regarding my prediction on how the market will do this year.

However, the number one question this year is whether one should refinance or not. Here are the most frequently asked questions so far this year and my answers.

Q. Is this the right time to refinance?

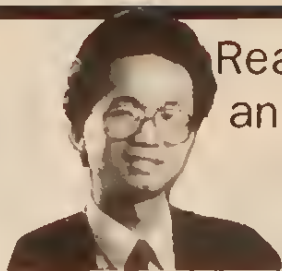
A. For most people, this is the perfect time to refinance. The rates are currently at an 18-year low and the conforming loan limit has gone up to \$202,300. If you plan on staying in your home for more than the next five years and purchased your home in the last few years, or if you have an adjustable loan, I can almost say with certainty that you should refinance at this point.

If you had purchased your home a while ago, let's say more than 10 years or if your loan balance is very low, it might not make sense because your closing costs are high and it might outweigh the advantages of getting a new loan.

If you are in doubt, I would advise that you consult with your accountant, a good loan agent, or a good real estate agent on your particular situation.

Q. My mortgage broker has told me that the mortgage rates have gone up the last couple of weeks. How can that be with the prime rate and other rates staying so low?

A. Mortgage money, as pricing with any other product, follows the law of supply and demand. With a limited supply, and as demand increases, price will also increase. The price for mortgage



Real estate questions and answers for the new year

John M. Lee

money is the interest rate. As lenders get more and more loan applications or demand for their money, they can make more money by increasing the interest rate, and they do.

This situation is analogous to that of credit card interest rates. Credit card interest rates range from 14 to 21 percent even though other rates have been dropping. The reason is because there is such a large consumer demand for credit cards that banks do not have to drop their rates to get their business, and thus they don't. The same is happening to mortgage money.

Also, with the savings and loan crisis and the downturn in the real estate industry, lenders had to lay off people. And thus, there are less people to meet this refinancing mania. The banks are hesitant to hire more people because if the market turns sour again, they will have to lay them off. So the banks raise the rates in response to the market to try and control the demand for their products.

Q. How did the market do in 1991?

A. That is a tough general question to answer. In terms of the number of sales, the activity was much better in 1991, compared to 1990. The San Francisco Association of Realtors reported 4,010 sales through the Multiple Listing Service as compared with 3,354 in 1990, a 20 percent increase. This type of activity is similar to the 1986 market before real estate prices took off.

Q. How will the market do in 1992?

Elaine: You will probably be completely confused with this letter. In a strange way you've brought Sue and me together even closer than we were before your library entered. ... Anyway, I'll send you a wedding invitation. Love, George."

Roberts saved all the letters, which are now kept in the Special Collections Department of the S.F. Main Library.

"I didn't know (Brautigan) well enough to know what he thought about the letters, but I suspect he got a kick out of it," says Roberts, who now works at the Anza Branch Library.

She remembers Brautigan as a

A. I think all the factors are getting in place for an economic recovery. I believe that we have hit the bottom of the recession cycle

and that we should be heading back up. However, the real estate market generally lags behind the economic cycle as consumers need to feel confident and secure about their financial situation before they commit to buying a home.

Thus, I see 1992 as a flat year in real estate, much like 1991. Activity will be about the same and prices will stay flat. The real recovery in real estate will not happen until 1993.

Q. Is this a good time to sell real estate?

A. That depends on your personal situation. Sure, prices have decreased from three years ago. But if you are thinking about trading up, this is probably a great time to do it because chances are the larger home you want to trade into have decreased much more in value than your home.

The closing costs and your financial obligations are less because your property taxes, mortgage payments, insurance, transfer tax, commission, title insurance, and escrow fees are all tied to the selling price. So this is actually the ideal time to trade up.

If you are thinking about cashing out and do not have a need to sell, it might be more advantageous for you to wait for a few years.

John M. Lee was recently honored at the Prudential National Convention for winning the President's Circle Award and being the #1 top producing agent for Prudential in San Francisco. If you have any questions or needs regarding real estate, you can call him at (415) 474-1525.

Library

Continued from page 11

Myers' writing "contains an intensity that I've never felt before. ... He jumps, he flies, he's young and old, fire engine and ice cream cone...." What better place for such a book than the San Francisco Public Library?, asked Wolff in an impassioned letter.

Ratner patiently reiterated that the library could not accept unpublished work.

The final letter came two months later from Myers, now in Ohio, who wrote simply, "Dear

shy man, who preferred to avoid the library staff for fear that "we would ask him to give a reading of his work."

Brautigan's unique contribution to the history of the Presidio branch will be remembered on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 5 to 7 p.m., at a ceremony sponsored by Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. Keith Abbott, author of *Downstream from Troutfishing in America*, a memoir of Brautigan, will be attending.

For more information, call the Presidio Reading Center, 292-2155, or Marcia Schneider, Community Relations Librarian at 557-4277.



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Mutual fund savings plans save small employers \$\$\$

Eric Tyson

Thanks to the growth and innovation in the no-load (no sales charges/commissions) mutual fund industry, small employers now have access to low-cost, high-value "prototype" retirement savings plans that effectively eliminate the need for hiring a retirement pension plan administrator. This can save thousands of dollars annually.

Historically, small employers (sole proprietors, partnerships and corporations) have hired administrators and plan consultants to set up and maintain plan documents to adhere to current tax laws. In addition to hiring a plan administrator, the employer typically selects an investment company to invest the plan assets.

Some retirement plan administrators and consultants have entered the investment management business as an add-on service for clients. Employers should be leery of such an arrangement as retirement plan administrators lack sufficient expertise and scale to provide cost effective money management that produces solid returns. Even worse is the fact that independent money managers are not subject to performance audit reviews by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Thus, it is buyer beware regarding often inflated investment performance marketing claims.

A Much Better Approach

No-load mutual fund investment companies have been in the money management business for decades and employ many of the best professional money managers in the world. Mutual funds date back to the 1800s when English and Scottish investment trusts sold shares to investors. The United States mutual fund industry began in 1924.

Today, there are more than 3,000 individual mutual funds in the U.S. with more than 1.2 tril-

lion dollars under management.

In the early 1970s, as the mutual fund companies reached a large enough size, they began to develop prototype retirement savings plans rather than working with outside administrators. Such an approach made economic sense as they had tens of thousands retirement plan customers.

By comparison, most pension administrators and plan consultants are small shops with at most several hundred clients and less than \$1 billion under management.

Prototype retirement savings plan documents are available from no-load mutual fund companies without charge for defined contribution plans such as Keoghs (profit sharing and money purchase) and defined benefit plans.

The mutual fund company ensures that the plan documents meet all current federal tax law standards. The plans are updated as needed by the mutual fund company, also without charge to customers, to comply with changes in tax law regulations.

The scale of the mutual fund industry and companies enables them to supply the prototype plans today to millions of retirement plan participants without charge. These plans also allow for the same flexibility as self-designed plan through an administrator. For example, plans can incorporate vesting schedules, and participation requirements.

The mutual fund companies also do not charge for the prototype retirement savings plans because they are a vehicle for capturing investment assets. Since an employer needs to select top-notch investment options for the plan's participants anyway, the no-load mutual funds are an excellent choice.

Besides employing many of the best professional money managers in the country, no-load mutual

View from the dunes



Photo courtesy of Greg Gear collection

A house (right), built in the shingled Arts and Crafts style still found in Richmond, overlooks the sand dunes and low hills that gave the District its early name, "The Great Sand Waste." Its neighbor to the left is a cable car house, which was popular at the turn of the century.

funds offer additional benefits to retirement savings plan participants. First, the scale of the best no-load funds enables them to maintain low management fees on their funds, typically 0.25 percent to 1 percent per year. This compares quite favorably to private pension companies and money managers who generally charge from 0.75 percent to 3 percent.

Another important benefit of investing through mutual funds is that they are overseen by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Through a required standardized prospectus, the SEC ensures that all funds disclose

uniform, audited, historic data on their funds' performance and management expenses.

No-load fund companies also offer many funds from which an employer or plan participants can choose to design a portfolio tailored to their investment needs.

An employer can easily establish a plan that allows participants to allocate their retirement savings contributions among domestic and international stock and bond funds.

Eric Tyson is founder of the Financial Information Center (339-2230), a fee-based financial

advisory firm which does not sell financial products. He is a graduate of Stanford Business School and Yale University.

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- Balboa/37th Ave. (S/W corner)
- Cabrillo/LaPlaza (S/E corner)



Reuse: It's fun, economical and ecological

Maria Hon

I visited my friend John Green the other day. He was wearing a bright green fluorescent T-shirt. "Nice shirt," I said. "Goodwill, \$2.50," he grinned, pleased with himself.

John has changed, I thought to myself. His house looks different. There's a huge used glass water jug with pretty little tropical fish in his living room. On the refrigerator handle hung the metamorphosed version of a sweatshirt I gave many birthdays ago.

"Sentimental cleaning rags, reminds me of you when I wipe the counter," he explained.

In a corner of the backyard, I notice a familiar metal garbage can set deep into the soil. I looked at him with a question on my face.

"It's my high-tech compost bin," he grinned, extremely pleased with himself. "I hardly make any more garbage, so I got myself a smaller can and I pay less. I cut a hole of of the bottom of the old can, made some holes on the sides, set it into the soil and — voila! — a compost bin. He was

gesturing excitedly. John has changed. He has discovered the joy of REUSE.

For many of us, it's REDiscovering the joy of reuse. I grew up wearing my cousin Teresa's blouses and playing with my sister Isabel's Barbie dolls after her attention turned to boys. On birthdays and holidays, we made angels out of shoulder pads, reindeer out of styrofoam trays and garlands out of used colored paper. Reuse is certainly not a revolutionary new idea. It has just been put on the back burner during the last two decades when the trends led us to believe that wealth is measured in the amount of stuff we own and waste. But it was only a matter of time before we were confronted with our nation's mounting garbage crisis and an uneasy feeling in our guts that ours is a wasteful, throwaway society.

Earth Day 1990 raised our consciousness and before you knew it, second-hand stores were popping up all over San Francisco. Everywhere, people began sorting through piles and rows of used clothes and shoes and housewares with the scent of unknown past owners. It's happening because it makes both ecological and economical sense. Reusing or using less not only saves money to buy and the energy that is needed to produce an item, it also conserves energy at the other end — the cost of disposing it. Aside from these obvious benefits, borrowing, trading and buying used items have the indirect benefits of stimulating and encouraging feelings of sharing among community members.

Many of us wouldn't think twice about buying a used car or a used house or renting a tuxedo for the Mayor's inaugural ball, so why not extend these approaches to other products? San Francisco abounds with sources for used clothing and household items. Rental outlets offer everything from party supplies, Halloween costumes to moving vans.

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Matrimony completes a man

Dana Perrigan



It was Emerson, I believe, who said that there was something a little uncivilized about unmarried men.

His idea was that there was some kind of finishing process that naturally takes place when a man lives in the state of matrimony. Those who have not yet experienced this refining influence are somehow incomplete. Their rough edges have yet to be sanded smooth by domesticity.

As I sat cross-legged on the sofa in my living room one night last week with a plate of bones on my lap and a slightly queasy feeling in my stomach, I thought that Emerson was probably right.

An hour earlier, I had come home from work tired and hungry. After spooning out a can of cat food for Biff, I had opened the refrigerator and made a cursory inspection of its contents: two cans of lychee nuts; a jar of mayonnaise; a package of baby carrots that had gone dry and rubbery with time; an unopened package of Monterey Jack cheese that had developed moldy, green spots and a plastic bag of something that looked as if it might once have been lettuce.

Opening the freezer compartment, I hit pay dirt — a 1.75-pound package of ribs in barbecue sauce. Following the microwave cooking instructions, I made a couple of incisions through the plastic along the top of the package, curled it into a circle, taped it closed with a strip of adhesive that had been enclosed for just this purpose and slapped it into the microwave.

While waiting for dinner, I turned on the TV. Eddie Murphy was impersonating an officer of the law in a country western bar, telling his large and unappreciative audience that he was not fond of rednecks. Nick Nolte slouched against the bar and guzzled booze.

By the time the ribs were done, Murphy and Nolte were slugging it out with each other on the street, a pretty fair exchange, until two cops broke it up.

Like one of Pavlov's dogs, I sprang up off the sofa when the microwave's bell went off. The ribs

were steaming hot and soaked in barbecue sauce. I opened the package and squeezed them out onto a plate. Since there weren't any napkins, I grabbed a kitchen towel and the plate of ribs and resumed my seat on the sofa.

After placing a section of newspaper under the plate, I started in on the ribs. One by one, I tore them off from the main section and gnawed them clean while watching TV. Occasionally, I found it necessary to wipe my face and hands with the kitchen towel before resuming my meal.

I hadn't intended to eat the entire 1.75 lb. package, but I was hungry and they tasted good. By the time Murphy and Nolte cornered the bad guy in what was supposed to be an alley in Chinatown, but was obviously a movie set in a Hollywood studio, the gnawed ribs were piled high on the plate.

Suddenly, I didn't feel so good. My stomach felt as if it had gone for one spin too many on the Zipper at the state fair. The sight of all those ribs on the plate didn't help. Neither did the sight of my face — unsmiling and smeared with barbecue sauce — in the bathroom mirror.

Instead of a leisurely and satisfying repast enjoyed in the bosom of a family, my dinner had been a primal thing. I might as well have gone out and speared an animal, dragged it back to my apartment and fallen upon it with savage glee. Biff could have joined in.

I took the plate into the kitchen and scraped the bones off into a paper sack. Then I went to bed. As I lay there, staring up at the ceiling, I realized how thin the veneer of civilization really is. I realized that, under certain circumstances, it can easily be stripped away.

For bachelors, who don't have to worry about the niceties unless they feel like it, life is different. You make do and improvise. A woman comes along and things change. All of a sudden you find yourself thinking and caring about things like napkins and glasses and furniture.

Finally, with a tired and uncivilized grunt, I fell asleep.

Libraries, garage sales, flea markets, friends, family and neighbors are all vast lending and trading resources.

Obtaining used items is half of the flow process of reuse. The other half is to make articles you no longer need available to others. Again, the City abounds with sources that buy used items or accept them as donations. Of course, you can always have a garage sale or sell at the local flea market.

In our neighborhood, check the Goodwill Store at 820 Clement St. (between Ninth and Tenth avenues), 668-3635, for used clothing, household goods, books and records. Used bookstores abound in the City, two are right here in the Richmond: Green Apple Books, 506 Clement St. (at

Sixth Avenue) 387-2272 and Albatross Books, 143 Clement St. (at Third Avenue), 752-8611. For a complete listing, be sure to check your Yellow Pages.

In addition to neighborhood thrift and used bookstores, there are outlets in the City that buy and sell used records. In the District, Revolver Records, 520 Clement St., 386-6128 is a good source.

Other outlets deal in used appliances and building materials (Caldwell Building Wreckers, 195 Bayshore Blvd, 550-6777).

Also, look also for stores where you can refill shampoos, liquid detergents, all-purpose house cleaners, peanut butter and other bulk items (check the Inner Sunset Community Food Store, 1319 20th Ave., 664-5363 and Rainbow Grocery Inc., 1899 Mission St.,

863-0620).

In addition to the Yellow Pages, two helpful guides are the *The San Francisco Thrift Shop Almanac* by Samuel F. Hunter, 1657 Waller St., San Francisco, 94117 and *The Bay Area Green Pages* by the Green Media Group, P.O. Box 11314, Berkeley, California, 94701.

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The Richmond Review welcomes all written articles, news tips, feature story ideas, and photographs from neighborhood contributors.



John M. Lee

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February Calendar of Events

1 - 9

20-Year Class Reunion: George Washington High School, classes of Fall '71 and Spring '72, call Tony Tucker at 386-0483, Jim Kudroff at 668-1565, or Mary Barillas at 665-6849; Sept. 19, \$45/person if paid by Feb. 15, \$55/person thereafter.

25-Year Class Reunion: George Washington High '66 Reunion has been planned for the Spring 1966 class. The celebration will take place on March 14, 1992. Anyone who is interested, please contact Linda at 661-7245 for more information.

Ceramic Classes: Lincoln Park Senior Center, 417 31st Avenue at Clement is offering ceramic classes every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - noon. Free. For more information, call Dorothy Wagner, 453-1290.

Lecture: Bob Taxin will conduct a lecture and demonstration on "How to Conquer Your Fear and Depression," 626 Balboa St., Friday, Feb. 7; 7 p.m. Free. For reservations, call 647-7955.

Decorating Party: Valentine's Day Decorating Party, Fantasia Bakery, 3465 California St., Saturday, Feb. 8; 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 752-0825.

Conference: The San Francisco Unified School District invites parents and the community to a free conference: "School-Home-Community: Parents Make a Difference." Denman Middle School, 241 Oneida Ave., Saturday, Feb. 8; 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Chinese New Year Celebration: The Foundation for S.F. Heritage will present its Sixth Annual Chinese New Year Celebration featuring a lecture on the history of Chinese in S.F., explanation of New Year customs and a walk through Chinatown. Commodore Stockton School Auditorium, 950 Clay St., Saturday, Feb. 8; 10 a.m. \$10 members; \$15 non-members, for reservations, call 441-3000.



'Substance of Things Hoped For: A Trilogy,' by Andrew Caldwell is playing at the Plough and the Stars, 116 Clement St, Sundays, 2 p.m., through March 29. Call 707-649-1407 for more information.

10 - 16

Crafts: Valentine's Day Crafts, Richmond Branch Library, 351 Ninth Ave., Tuesday, Feb. 11; 10:30 a.m. ages 3 - 5, 666-7165.

Health Talk: Building pint-sized confidence, or how to develop self-esteem in infants and toddlers. Learn how feelings of self-worth in infants and toddlers affect their happiness and future success. UCSF, Laurel Heights, Chancellor's Room, 3333 California St, Wednesday, Feb. 12; 7 - 8:30 p.m. For registration information, call 476-6667.

Seniors Dance: Dance to the tunes of Maury Wolohand and his band. Senior citizens are invited to celebrate Valentine's Day at County Fair Building, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way in G.G. Park, Friday, Feb. 14; 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Military History Symposium: The Presidio of San Francisco between WWI and WWII: The Golden Years. Four distinguished historians will discuss various aspects of the development of the Presidio between the World Wars. Post Theater, Moraga Avenue, Presidio, Saturday, Feb. 15; 1 - 4 p.m. \$5 donation for non-members, reservations required, 921-8193.

Workshop: Integrating Work and Self: Discover the work you are meant to do. 200 Arguello Blvd, Saturday, Feb. 15; 4 - 6 p.m. RSVP required, Beverly Brown, 221-9448.

Hike: Mountain Lake to Fort Point, a three-mile hike retracing the steps of the Spanish explorers who established the Presidio. Meet a ranger at Mountain Lake Park, Saturday, Feb. 15; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 556-0865 or 556-1874 for reservations.

Workshop: Growing plants from seed. Learn how to treat seeds for best germination, the best soil mixes to use and light and temperature requirements. S.F. County Fair Building, 9th Ave. and Lincoln, Saturday, Feb. 15; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Exhibition: Frost Bite Regatta, indoor exhibit at Model Yacht Club, Spreckels Lake, J.F. Kennedy Dr. at 36th Avenue in G.G. Park, Sunday, Feb. 16; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

17 - 23

Community/Police Forum: Municipal Court Judge George Choppelas is the speaker on Tuesday, Feb. 18; 7 p.m. at the Richmond District Police Station, 461 Sixth Ave. Call 553-1984 for more information.

Creative Reuse: Bring unwanted paper, fabric, cloth, yarn, wood, buttons, tile, costume jewelry, feathers, egg cartons, pens, rubber scraps and wire to SCRAP, Scrounger's Center for Reusable Art Parts, Sunshine High School, 2730 Bryant St., Thursday, Feb. 20; 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Puppet Show: At the Farm Barn Area, in Children's Playground, G.G. Park, Bowling Green Drive

off Kezar Drive, Friday, Feb. 21; 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free.

Quilting: Learn techniques and traditions of African American quilting. Use brightly colored fabrics to explore story quilt and crazy quilt designs. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, Saturday, Feb. 22; 1 - 3 p.m. \$1, for information, call 544-9600.

Home Repair: A women-empowering-women workshop. Learn how to repair wires and plugs on various appliances, find out about circuit breakers and fuse boxes. UCSF, 513 Parnassus Ave., room S17 of the School Nursing building, Saturday, Feb. 22; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$20 to \$45 sliding scale fee, pre-registration is required, 476-5836.

Exhibition: A major exhibition of over 250 works of art, arms and armor, from Medieval swords to meticulously crafted firearms will premiere at the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, Saturday, Feb. 22; Wednesday, through Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Monthly Musicale: Violin concert by Helene Pohl of the Fidelio quartet. Works by Prokofiev, Beethoven, Bartok and Dvorak. Reception following with food and beverage. Sponsored by the Association for

Responsible Communication, 2400 Fulton St., Saturday, Feb. 22; 8 p.m. \$10, 221-6077.

24 - 29

Movies: Rosie's Walk, Where the Wild Things Are, Tender Tales of Cinderella Penguin, Richmond Branch Library, 351 Ninth Ave., Tuesday, Feb. 25; 10:15 and 11 a.m., 666-7165.

Richmond District Youth Court: Teens learn by acting as attorneys and jurors for their peers; Richmond District Police Station, 461 Sixth Ave., Wednesday, Feb. 26; 4 p.m., 751-2504.

Petrent Seminar: Experts from the rental industry will give tips on how to find a rental property that allows pets. SF/SPCA, 2500 16th St., Wednesday, Feb. 26; 6 - 9 p.m. \$15 donation. 554-3050.

Garage Sale: Amnesty International Richmond-Sunset Group will hold their annual garage sale at 4500 Ulloa St. at 46th Ave., Saturday, Feb. 29; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Lesson: Sea lions on Seal Rocks learn about marine mammals that frequent the waters around Seal Rocks. Bring binoculars, Saturday, Feb. 29; 2 - 2:30 p.m.

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Host Families needed to house foreign students in S.F. studying English. \$100/week. Call Rebecca at Aspect Language School - 386-3357.

Personal

Happy Birthday Samantha: You're a year older but still a codfish face. Na Na NaNa Na.

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Piano Wanted

Looking for a Piano: for the San Francisco Recreation Center at Sixth & Folsom streets. If you can donate a new or nearly new piano please call Sybil at the S.F. Rec. and Park Dept. at 666-7107.

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4690 brings in year of monkey

Continued from page 1

mony at Union Square on Feb. 8 at noon. After that, the week is filled with such events as the Miss Chinatown Pageant, the Children's Kite Festival, and the Chinatown Community Fair. A schedule of events can be obtained from the Chinese Chamber of Commerce at 982-3071.

The Chinese New Year Parade will end the New Year celebration on February 15 beginning at 6 p.m. at Market and Second streets and ending at Kearny and Columbus streets.

Tradition demands that the parade finish with Gum Lung, the 160-foot-long Golden Dragon, who dances along the parade route carried by over 100 members of Leung's

White Crane studio.

As the dragon, often representing the masculine in Chinese culture, emerges from its symbolic cave to join the parade, it will be surrounded by firecrackers to scare away the evil spirits. Along the route, the dragon chases the Pearl of Eternal Life, always unattainable, and bows to the four corners of the earth representing the universe.

Unlike many parade-goers last year who avoided being slapped by the sides of the wet dragon in the rain, New Year's celebrants should touch the dragon for good luck - rain or no rain.

So as the Chinese say, Gung Hay Fat Choy, give someone an orange to wish them prosperity and may you be touched by the dragon.

Bartering to boost business

Continued from page 4

recently bartered his catering and restaurant services for legal services, advertising, graphic arts, printing, and wine.

"Trade keeps the economy going," says Lee. The American Countertrade Association estimates that 10 percent of the \$3 trillion of international business conducted annually is in the form of barter. Barter News, a magazine based in Mission Viejo, reports that in the past 10 years, barter by small businesses has grown to \$1.2 billion from \$200 million.

Bartering, which long predates money in the historical scheme of things, is not recommended as a sole means of doing business, but can provide a significant edge against the recession.

Dorenstreich points out that the recession can be a double-edged sword. When the recession reduces customer flow is when advertising would be ideal, but it's also when advertising budgets are likely to be cut. Bartering is one way to get that advertising, he said.

For more information about bartering call Dorenstreich at (415) 227-0480.

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